GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7820
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2000
DISPLACED REFUGEES
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Commission for Refugees has pointed out that India has got 5.2 lakh people displaced by political violence in the country;

(b) the number of Kashmiri Pandits, Muslims and Sikhs displaced due to the conflicts between the armed forces and terrorists;

(c) whether according to the refugees 2.2. lakh Tibetans and Sri Lankan have taken shelter in the country;

(d) whether according to this report 16,000 Afghans live as urban refugees;

(e) if so, whether this problem of refugees from various countries living in India are creating great disturbance and imbalance in India;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government on this report; and
(g) the steps being taken to return these displaced persons to their original place?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)to(g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in respect of parts (a)to (g) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.7820 for reply on 16.5.2000

(a): The United States Committe for Refugees, a non-governmental organisation, recently published the World Refugee Survey, 1999 Report, wherein it is, Inter-alia, stated that more than 5,20,000 people were internally displaced in India due to political violence.

(b): As per information available, 53538 families comprising Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and others have so far migrated from Kashmir Valley. Out of this, 31,490 families are staying at Jammu, 19,338 families are staying at Delhi and 2710 families are staying in other States. Community-wise break-up of families for Jammu, is as under

Hindus	-	27282
Muslims	-	2303
Sikhs	-	1830
Others	-	75
		31490

(c): As on 31.3.2000 about 70,000 Sri Lankan refugees are accommodated in 129 camps in Tamil Nadu and one camp in Orissa and about 30,000 Sri Lankan refugees are staying outside the camps in Tamil Nadu. As per the demographic survey, conducted by the Bureau of H.H. The Dalai Lama, in June 1998, there are about 1,08,414 Tibetan Refugees staying in different States in India.

(d): As per the information furnished by Bureau of immigration, as collected from State Governments, there are 12,255 Afghan Nationals staying as refugees in India as on 31.1.1998.

(e)to(g):Continued presence of large number of refugees from various countries do create additional burden including financial. However, because of the continued disturbed situation in Sri Lanka, no organised repatriation has been possible after 1995. As regards Tibetan refugees, the policy of the Government of India is that those who moved to India after March, 1959, following the Chinese occupation of Tibet and the Dalai Lama`s fight into India, should be allowed to continue to stay in India and treated as foreigners, subject to registration and grant of residential permits. Since the circumstances under which asylum was granted have not materially changed, there does not appear any possibility of repatriation of Tibetan refugees. Excepting Tibetan and Sri Lankan refugees, who are getting some assistance from the Government of India during their stay in India, all other foreign refugees have generally come on valid passports and visa and have been getting extension of stay. Their stay is governed under the provisions of

different Acts such as Foreigners Act, 1946; Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920; Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 and the rules and orders framed thereunder. However, efforts to repatriate the refugees and to prevent their fresh influx are being made continuously by all concerned.